

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 3, 4 and 6-20 remain in the application. Claims 1, 2 and 5 have been canceled. Claim 3 has been amended to correct a spelling mistake and claim 4 has been amended to depend from claim 3. Claims 7 and 8 have been amended to depend from claim 6. Claim 14 has been amended to define the invention more clearly. In particular, the operating information extractor of amended claim 14 has been clarified as being operative to extract operating information of the automatic door apparatus from the controller "repeatedly at predetermined time intervals." The operating information includes sensor state information indicating a detected state of the sensor and door state information indicating an open/closed control state of the door. The door state information is cooperatively associated with the sensor state information. Claim 14 further defines a memory device that "time-sequentially stores the operating information repeatedly extracted by the extractor." Additionally, amended claim 14 now defines the memory device as storing the operating information "in an order of extracted time from a current time back for a predetermined period." Support for the amendments to claim 14 are provided, for example, in paragraph 0143, 0144 and 0151.

The assignee is pleased to note that claims 3, 6, 10-13, 19 and 20 have been allowed. Those claims remain in the application without further amendment.

Previously rejected dependent claim 4 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 3. The Advisory Action indicated that amended claim 4 is in condition for allowance.

Previously rejected dependent claims 7-9 now depend from allowed claim 6. The Advisory Action identified claims 7-9 as being allowable.

Claims 14-18 remain in the application and have been finally rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Tazumi et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,392,537. The office action and the Advisory Action explained the perceived relevancy of the Tazumi et al. reference to claim 14 prior to this Amendment.

Tazumi et al. is assigned to the assignee of the subject invention. Thus, the applicant herein is familiar with the attributes and limitations of Tazumi et al. In fact the Tazumi et al. reference is described in detail on pages 2-5 of the application and was part of the IDS filed with this application. The Tazumi et al. reference discloses a system where maintenance information includes information on how many times the door has been opened and closed, how many times the door was stopped and how many times maintenance has been provided (col. 9, lines 17-27). Tazumi et al. also shows that the inspection of the EEPROM 20, the ROM 16 and the RAM 18 is carried out by writing and reading data into and from these modules and determining whether written data can be read out correctly. Whether or not the motor current is normal can be determined from the output of the motor current detector 23. Whether the motor is overheated is determined from the output of a temperature detector 26. Breakage of the motor belt, disconnection of encoder lines and magnetic force abnormalities can be determined from the output of the encoder (col. 6, last full paragraph). However, the Tazumi et al. reference does not teach or suggest the extraction and storage of these data over a predetermined time. Thus, the Tazumi et al. reference effectively provides a snap shot of the operating condition of the

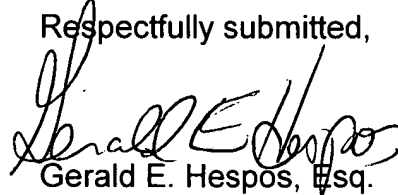
door. Limitations of the assignee's Tazumi et al. teaching are specifically described in paragraphs 0009-0013 of the subject application.

In contrast to Tazumi et al., the invention defined by amended claim 14 enables an assessment of operating trends over a predetermined time. In particular, the operating information extractor extracts operating information of the automatic door apparatus from the controller at predetermined time intervals. The apparatus of amended claim 14 further includes a memory device which time-sequentially stores the operating information repeatedly extracted by the extractor. The operating information is stored in the order of extracted time from a current time back for a predetermined period. Accordingly, the invention defined by amended claim 14 produces a history of the operation of the door apparatus as disclosed in paragraph 0143-0145 of the subject application. This historical log of operating information that is stored time sequentially in the order of extracted time enables service personnel to determine how a malfunction of an automatic door occurred. This historical log of operating conditions preceding a malfunction also provides the basis for predicting possible future malfunctions. The apparatus of amended claim 14 represents a significant advance over the assignee's earlier work (i.e., Tazumi et al.) and the Examiner already has acknowledged the patentability of claims relating to predicting a possible malfunction.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is submitted that all of the claims remaining in the application are directed to patentable subject matter and allowance is solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact applicants attorney at the number

below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald E. Hespos". The signature is stylized with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

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